

# WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) is an international policy framework. The UN Security Council recognised that gender is central to international peace and security and that women must meaningfully participate in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peace-building.

- WPS builds upon and references human rights and the Beijing Platform for Action.
- WPS is not about making war safe for women - it is about ending war.

## The Resolutions

The WPS Agenda includes eight UN Security Council Resolutions

**1325**

### **UNSCR 1325 (2000)**

addressed the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and recognised women as active agents in peace and security;

**1820**

### **UNSCR 1820 (2009)**

recognised sexual violence as a weapon and tactic of war and called for greater deployment of women in peace operations, as well as training for troops on preventing and responding to sexual violence;

**1888**

### **UNSCR 1888 (2009)**

reiterated the role of sexual violence in impeding international peace and security and called for the SRSG deployment of a Team of Experts for conflict-related sexual violence cases;

**1889**

### **UNSCR 1889 (2009)**

focused on post-conflict peacebuilding, women's participation in all stages of peace processes, as well as the development of indicators to measure the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000);

**1960**

### **UNSCR 1960 (2010)**

reiterated the call for an end to sexual violence in armed conflict, and set up "naming and shaming" listing mechanisms including international condemnation, reparations, listing in Secretary-General's annual reports, and referrals to UN Sanctions Committees or to the ICC;

**2106**

### **UNSCR 2106 (2013)**

focused on operationalising current WPS obligations rather than on creating new structures/initiatives and supported recourse to avenues of justice for victims of sexual violence;

**2122**

### **UNSCR 2122 (2013)**

affirmed an "integrated approach" to sustainable peace which included combating women's participation deficit, addressing conflict-related security risks to women, calling for the provision of multisectoral services, as well as linking disarmament to gender equality;

**2242**

### **UNSCR 2242 (2015)**

focused on operationalising current WPS obligations rather than on creating new structures/initiatives and supported recourse to avenues of justice for victims of sexual violence;

## **Four main pillars:**



1) Participation



2) Conflict Prevention



3) Protection



4) Relief and Recovery

## **Key Actors:**

- Women in conflict affected communities,
- Civil society organisations,
- Member States,
- United Nations System,
- UN Security Council and its Informal Expert Groups on UNSCR 2242 (2015)



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## Where are we now?

- In 2016, the Security Council/UN referred to WPS in 74% of all resolutions, 61% of all presidential statements, and 88% of all reports. In the period between 1998-2000, this percentage was lower than 5%. - *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the UN Security Council: 2016* (NGO WG on WPS, 2017).
- Approx. 38% (72 total) of Member States adopted UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans as of January 2018. - *Member States* (WILPF, 2018).



**“Women's participation increases the probability of a peace agreement lasting at least two years by 20%.”**

UNSCR1325 Global Study (UN Women, 2015).

- However of the 9 processes tracked in 2016, senior women were represented in only 11 delegations, compared with in 8 processes and 12 delegations in 2015. In 2016, the UN provided gender expertise to 4 of 7 (57%) relevant mediation processes, a decrease from 89% in 2015. - *UN Secretary-General Report on Women, Peace and Security* (UN, 2017).
- From 2010 to 2015, donor funding directly to women's rights organisations more than halved, undermining the pioneers of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and increasing risks around work for gender equality and peace. - *Financing UN Security Council Resolution 1325* (OECD DAC, 2015).

## What Member States can do?

The **2015 UNSCR1325 Global Review** identifies that the main reason for the gap between the normative framework on Women, Peace and Security and its implementation is lack of political will, accountability and resources, as well as the existence of institutional and attitudinal barriers.

To address these issues, key actors should:

1. Ensure consistent conflict analysis that recognises women's perspectives and takes action toward gender equality and non-violence;
2. Strengthen participation of women and women-led civil society organisations at all levels of peace work, including supporting financial, technical and political capacity to engage;
3. Develop and implement National and Regional Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security with predictable, accessible and flexible funding;
4. Review and update arms control regulations to ensure the integration of gender analysis in their implementation and their compliance with the Arms Trade Treaty and other relevant instruments;
5. Ensure the gender functions across peace work are appropriately resourced and provided with the necessary political, training and logistical support.



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